

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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TO THE MAN WHO SAID:

"It is impossible for us to make war on the Mexican people!" and straightway had 200 Mexicans butchered on behalf of the Trusts.

AND WHO

is silent whilst women and children are being massacred in Colorado.

The puppet prated long of Peace,
In accents soft and kind.
He told of times when war must cease—
With murder in his mind.
And by the Colorado mines—
Because men asked for bread—
His soldiers stood in serried lines,
To shoot the children dead!

In smoking Vera Cruz, a stain
Accuses from the dust,
The hired brave who wields, for gain,
The weapons of a Trust.
The patriot's blood you lightly spill,
And slaughtered children's cries,
Send up, High Heaven's Courts to thrill,
A curse that never dies!
O Changeling, of the Devil's Brood,
With hand hell-hot to kill,
Not such as yours the good, red blood,
That spilled on Bunker Hill!

Their blood shall clot upon your soul,
Thro' years of vain remorse;
Red war by your own hearth shall roll,
And flare upon your corse.
The never-healing, festered wound,
To all your kind be given—
And may they rot in foreign ground,
Unburied and unshriven!

—ISHMAEL.

The Passing Show.

Labor creates wealth but idleness enjoys it.

The workers make useful things, but the capitalists make laws.

The capitalists make wars, but do not fight. They get the workers to do that.

If the workers refused to fight wars would cease.

If you are wise you will study Socialism and find out what is being done to you.

When they tell you that Socialism will destroy thrift, ask them if they don't mean theft.

Under capitalism men get rich by absorbing what others create rather than by creating wealth themselves.

To be "treated like a dog" has a new meaning now-a-days, if we may judge by the way wealthy women handle their pets.

The ammunition factories of most Christian countries are very busy turning out bullets just now. They are meant for the workers and are about the only commodity made by the workers that are exclusively consumed by them.

If the interest of the worker and the capitalist are identical, how is it that the interest all goes to the capitalist?

The rich often suggest that the poor are to blame for their poverty. They certainly are to blame for allowing the rich to rob them of what they produce.

In spite of the fact that the workers have been robbed for centuries they are shocked if you talk of "expropriating the expropriators."

The capitalist system is based on war and exploitation. In its early stages men had to kill or be killed; now they have to exploit to be exploited.

Poverty is a social disease that requires an economic remedy. Socialism is the remedy.

Under capitalism the worker who refuses to be skinned is generally clubbed, shot imprisoned or deported.

War is a losing game for the workers, but a winning one for the capitalists who have the cards stacked.

The capitalists drive the workers but



The Free Speech Fight in Brisbane.

the plute press puts the winkers on them so they cannot see properly.

Under Socialism we will live to enjoy our work. Under capitalism we merely work to live and we live merely to work.

Suppose Jesus came to Archbishop Kelly and said: "Woe unto the rich." Would the head of the church in New South Wales say, "Right ye are, me boy?"

"The world," says Horace Walpole, "is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel." When those who think unite with those who feel, things will be righted.

"Wait not to be backed by numbers. Wait not till you are sure of an echo from a crowd. The fewer the voices on the side of truth, the more distinct and strong must be your own."—Channing.

"When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle."—Burke.

President Wilson is appealing to Rockefeller to put an end to the civil war in Colorado. He knows who is the real cause of the trouble, and also who are the real rulers of America.

If the "wages of sin is death," and wage-slavery is sin, then the system of wage-slavery is doomed.

The world will be happy only when there is enough for everybody and not too much for anybody.

The United States Cabinet has ordered the despatch of troops to Colorado to "suppress the disorder there." We know whom they will suppress.

Judge Higgins says that the cost of living in Australia is 53s weekly. If you are not getting that much ask yourself why.

The landlord, banker and profit-monger are a menace to society. They toil not, neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory hadn't got his claws so deeply in the pockets of producers as they have.

The non-producer is a parasite, and those who support him are rogues. Get rid of them and let reward flow naturally to those whose brain and muscle produce everything that goes to make life worth living.

It is said that more than six per-cent. of the London police have joined the new policemen's union. The younger policeman are Syndicalist-Socialists.

The ruling faction see the storm approaching. That is one of the reasons why compulsory military service is being forced upon the sons of the workers. The effort will defeat itself because the rising generation are being made to think about and hate militarism.

The nationalisation of industry now being preached by labor politicians is a veritable gold-brick to the workers. In all the State industries in the Commonwealth tyranny, sweating, and oppression rule, and the reason is that such institutions are run in the interests of money-lenders by politicians who long ago ceased to have any love for labor.

When the workers at the New South Wales State brickworks revolted against the working conditions, the Labor Government promptly closed the works down for "repairs." An old capitalist dodge that, and worthy of Arthur the Artful.

New South Wales Premier Holman is fighting his following for the right to make his own appointments to the Upper House. The market price of such appointments is said to be from £300 to £1000, according to the snuffful nature of the candidate for the honour. A candidate who is an open enemy of the workers has to pay spot cash and a good price.

A big trouble is looming ahead of the ruling faction of Australia. Every forced boy soldier is an outlaw or rebel by open deed or secret purpose. The number of boys defying the brutal slave-law is vastly increasing and it looks as if a general strike against it will soon be within easy accomplishment.

"Copies of this book should be sent to all Geese Societies, all Quakers, and the Minister for Defence who is diffident about equipping our army with up-to-date air-craft. They would all like to be non-combatants."—"The Bulletin." This is how the "Bulletin" concludes a notice of a book on "War" which was apparently written to the order of the War Trust for scaremongering purposes. There is no likelihood that the publishers of the book will adopt the "Bulletin's" suggestion and send copies promiscuously about amongst the opponents of the warmongering interest. They will be more likely to place them judiciously with papers which seize every opportunity to promote scares in the interest of the armament firms. They know where the "Geese" are and send war books amongst them.

When the police and soldiers come to understand Socialism capitalism will be doomed.

Two plays raging in Sydney recently

were "The Liars" and "The Forty Thieves." They weren't meant to be a satire on The Millions Club and immigrationists, but they hit no other section of the community so hard, except, it might be, politicians and other hot-air artists.

The only way—if you want anything done, do it yourselves.

"He would like to know what, in their opinion, was the greatest enemy to England. (Voices: "Home Rule.") He believed it was luxury. The people at Home were really too well off."—Sir William MacGregor, Governor of Queensland. This brick hits the decadent rich—Sir William's own class.

Capitalism demands that you should "love your country" and pay rent for the privilege of living in it and fighting for it.

Under capitalism men get rich by roguery, by getting in the way of those who work, by controlling and owning the tools of production, and collecting toll, like the robber barons of old.

Socialism will give every man an opportunity to get rich by his own efforts, and it will discourage all those who now make others poor by their efforts.

The Socialist party is the only party that has any cure for unemployment. It proposes to shorten the working day in keeping with the increased productiveness of machinery.

When war breaks out the worker is sent to fight for "his country." When the war is over the worker returns to live in a slum and hunt for a job.

Speaking at the Hibernian Society's Annual Conference in Sydney, Archbishop Kelly declared that the man or woman who made a mixed marriage jeopardised the Catholic tradition of the offspring. Yes, sex triumphs over all traditions of colours and creeds. But we would like to ask Dr. Kelly what of the priest who makes nonmarriage at all? Does he not jeopardise "Catholic traditions" and even the human race itself?

"Mr. Fisher raised an awkward question that has sooner or later got to be faced when he said during the Address-in-Reply that in his opinion it will be necessary to alter the cadet system to prevent our lads being deprived of their Saturday afternoons."—"The Australian Worker." Mr. Fisher would probably never have thought of such an "awkward question" but for the fact that he is no longer Prime Minister. He is a different Fisher in opposition.

Those who read Tom Mann's remarks in last week's issue on Syndicalism, will note that he said the workers of South Africa "were wise to obtain whatever they could by political action," and that the "trades unions were genuinely representative organisations of the workers." Syndicalism, he explained, "was only trade unionism." His advice to the workers seemed to be to get into the unions and advocate a more perfect form of industrial organisation there, and into politics to get whatever they can by political action. When in America Mann seemed to lean to the anti-political I.W.W. idea against political action, and championed its cause in a public debate with Socialist Lewis, a position which is the direct opposite to that which he has adopted in South Africa. Did Lewis convince Mann that the non-political I.W.W. with one big separate union is utopian, or did the failure of the South African workers on the industrial field and their subsequent success in political action lead him to the right conclusion? If Syndicalists advocate industrial and political action it is difficult to see why they quarrel with Socialists who do the same. Their guns should really be turned against the opponents of trade unionism and political action.

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Write on paper not larger than letter-paper, and thin enough to avoid getting us fined for over-weight.

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Write briefly and clearly, as long and undecipherable articles stand no chance of publication.

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It is reserved for some great critic to give us a study of the psychology of the nineteenth century. Those of us who as adults saw it face to face in that last moiety of its days when one fierce hand after another—Marx's, Strindberg's, Turgenev's, Tolstoy's—stripped its masks off and revealed it as on the whole, perhaps the most villainous page of recorded human history, can also recall the strange confidence with which it regarded itself as the very summit of civilization, and talked of the past as a cruel gloom that had been dispelled for ever by the railway and the electric telegraph.

—BERNARD SHAW.

The Growing Unpopularity of Conscription.

When the Federal Labor Party sold the workers' sons into bondage by means of the Conscription Act, only a comparatively few saw the dangers that lurked in the scheme.

The Socialists were the first to sound an alarm, and they have consistently and ceaselessly denounced the treachery of the authors of the infamous Act since its inception.

For a long time our criticisms seemed without effect. The supporters of the Act made no attempt to argue with us, but contented themselves with ignorant claptrap about the benefits of compulsory training and the dangers of invasion.

The authorities, drunk with national pride and prejudice, and totally ignorant of human nature, have with the help of the Act, been jailing and punishing the youth of the country in an attempt to make all minds alike. Every boy, no matter how unsuitable he might be mentally and physically, was to be turned into a soldier by experts specially qualified to make square pegs fit round holes.

After many months of bull-headed perseverance in an attempt to effect the impossible, there are many signs that the friends of the conscript scheme are weakening and wavering in their advocacy of it.

General Hamilton seemed to see one of these signs when giving his impressions of his recent tour, for he said:

"One of the things I noticed during my tour is the apparent absence of enthusiasm on the part of the spectators at military spectacles. The people come in great numbers, but they were very quiet. They did not show any enthusiasm. Of course, I saw no disapproval of the system that has been adopted; but it seems to me that parents, watching their sons drilling or parading, might have exhibited more enthusiasm."

The great man, of course, did not look for the signs of "disapproval of the system." He was not here to see them, but the prosecution of hundreds of defaulters each week, and the failure of "military spectacles" to arouse any enthusiasm surely tell of disapproval if not contempt and opposition.

The utterances of such leaders of the people as politicians are amongst the most important signs of "disapproval" which General Hamilton could have seen had he looked for them. Amongst such Mr. O'Malley's answer to a reporters question is significant. He was inter-

viewed by a Labor journalist at Perth, W.A., in February last, and when asked:

"Did you go to Cockburn Sound yesterday, Mr. O'Malley?"

He replied: "No; I do so hate the economic waste of armament expenditure that I do not care even to look at what is being done in that direction."

Mr. O'Malley was a Minister in the Fisher Labor Government—the Government responsible for the Conscription Act. He now hates to look at what is being done under its provisions.

Mr. J. Page, M.H.R., speaking in the House (October 1913) said:

"Even at this early hour in the establishment of our defence policy, I am beginning to fear that we may have made a mistake. There is a jingoistic spirit in Australia that was never here before, and we may be creating a naval and military caste, for which many of us may be ultimately sorry."

—"Hansard," p. 2396.)

Mr. Robert Howe, M.H.R., said:

"We have our Defence Acts embodied in such books as are issued to us, but there is not one man in this House who knows what the regulations are. It seems to me that instead of the Minister for Defence controlling his Department, the Department is controlling him." ("Hansard," Oct. 13, p. 2378.)

Mr. J. Matthews, M.P., said at Port Melbourne recently:

"Under the Defence Act, as it stood, troops might be called out in a time of industrial trouble, and when the Labor Party, coming back to its own, once more held the reins of office, it would be its duty to amend the Act so as to render such a pernicious action impossible. He urged the Labor Councils to take the matter up."

Lecturing at the Trades Hall, Perth, on April 26, Mr. Dodd, Hon. Minister in the West Australian Government, advanced a number of arguments against Conscription. He said emphatically that the system "was not going to be any good to the country. It was said that trainees were only asked to defend their country, but the world's history showed this to be sophistry, an idle army would be sent wherever it was wanted in war time. General Sir Ian Hamilton's statement that he hoped for plenty of wars reflected the spirit behind nine-tenths of the military officers. There was no necessity for military training to produce perfection, and he saw no improvement of manners as the result of training. He considered that a wrong idea was prevalent among the officers regarding discipline for cadets."

These and other utterances of members of the party mainly responsible for the Act, tell of a growing disapproval and unpopularity.

Amongst Unionists the feeling is growing that the Act is a danger to them. The miners of Broken Hill and Stanforth-Merthyr condemned the Act in strong terms, and the matter has lately occupied the serious attention of some of the largest unions of the Commonwealth. Recent happenings in New Zealand and South Africa have caused men in the ranks of labour to think seriously on the subject of militarism and conscription.

There is growing hostility to the Defence Act noticeable in the columns of such Labor papers as "Barrier Daily Truth," "The Labor Call," and the Queensland "Worker," and, all things considered, the early opponents of Conscription—those who fought it from the first—have good reason to believe that before long their efforts to turn the tables on the militarist faction will be crowned with success.

Section 51 of the Defence Act impliedly provides for the suppression of strikes by the military, and there are thousands who are not members of the Socialist Party who believe with us that a strike is a civil matter and not one for the intervention of the military.

At the last Federal Labor Conference of the Labor Party held at Hobart in 1912, a resolution against the use of the military in industrial disputes was carried, and Senator Rae afterwards introduced a motion in the Senate to give effect to the Hobart resolution. Though this motion was lost in the Senate—where the Labor Party has a strong majority—it served to awaken thought and direct attention to the dangers of the Act. It served to show the strength of the military influence over Senator Pearce, the then Labor Minister for Defence, and the majority of Labor Senators.

Some of the regulations framed by the Military Board under the Act are plainly aimed at the workers. Take Regulation 188A, which says:

"No member of the permanent military forces shall be ordered or required to do any work or to act in the place of civilians who have refused to work because of some dispute as to wages, hours, or conditions of labour, unless and until the matter has been

referred to the Minister, and his consent to the Permanent Military Forces doing such work has been obtained." (Page 48 of 273.)

This was passed by the Military Board, signed by the Governor-General, and not questioned by any member of the so-called Labor Party. It is only necessary now for the Employers' Association to bribe a Minister and obtain his consent to allow the troops to scab on the workers during a strike, and they would be compelled to do so.

That such a contingency is possible under capitalist government, whether Liberal, Tory, or Labor, is undeniable. The troops were used in England during the Transport Workers' Strike as strike-breakers and scabs, and they will be used here when the capitalists require them.

IS THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE SYSTEM CONSCRIPTION?

What Sir Ian Hamilton Says.

Many people deny that the Defence system is conscription, but the following extract from Sir Ian Hamilton's book "Compulsory Service," page 61, makes the matter perfectly clear. He says:

"I repeat, in case of misunderstanding, that under a 'Regular' system, men are trained in barracks by professional officers. Under a 'militia' system, all ranks are composed of citizens living in their own homes. Armies are divided materially into two categories. Regular and Militia; morally, also into two categories, voluntary or conscript. These divisions are perfectly clear and cannot be confounded by question-begging epithets."

The capitalist press has sedulously denied that the Australian defence system is conscription, but it has never attempted to show that there is any difference between "Compulsory Training," the "question-begging" epithet it applies to it, and conscription. The Labor press also, unable to escape from capitalist press terminology, and the snare its own political leaders led it into, has refused to call the system by its proper name, but has adopted the "question-begging" epithet to confound its readers.

General Hamilton's book may be seen in Melbourne and Sydney public libraries, and also most likely in the libraries of the principal cities of other States, so that there is no excuse for the ignorance or worse of the Labor press of Sydney and Brisbane.

GENERAL HAMILTON AND THE BOY CONSCRIPTS.

The following attempt to explain the attitude of the conscript boys regarding the military mania is from the "S.M. Herald" of April 25. It shows a fine turn for prevarication and subterfuge, and is so cunningly calculated to mislead that it would be a pity not to hand it along to those who can appreciate a good joke. Writing of General Hamilton's failure to interest the boys in soldiering, the "Herald" says:

"When he found an outpost of young Australian soldiers greeting his efforts to explain to them the day's operations by lying on their backs and gazing lazily in the opposite direction he did not jump to the conclusion that they lacked the intelligence of the youth of other nations; he did not assume that a man who had fought through many wars in many countries, who had been sent by his nation to watch the greatest battles of modern times, and who had dissected those battles, and written books about them, a man who had risen by his merits to the top of a great service, and who wore on his breast the decorations of half a dozen nations, could be without interest for the boys whom he saw around him. He did not imagine that when a soldier, whom Germans, Frenchmen, or Spaniards would have flocked for miles to see, came down and talked to half a dozen young Australian privates on outpost duty of some of the experiences which he had incurred, and the personal lessons he had learnt amidst some of the greatest events of modern history, those youngsters were too unintelligent even to pretend to appreciate it. He came to the conclusion that this was an elaborate pose; that the young Australian was beneath the surface, 'full of nervous energy and quickness' in an especial degree. 'The code of good form in Australia,' he concluded, 'is rather against manifestations of respect; so that people who look on the surface of things sometimes are disposed to believe that the Australian youth is not adapted to being moulded to discipline.' It took a column of the 'Herald's' space to explain away the cadets' lack of interest, and when the explanation was complete the hard fact remained that the 'Great General' had failed to arouse the boys' interest in the great murder scheme on hand. The Australian boys are 'full of nervous energy and quickness,' but not in soldiering. They are too intelligent to be disciplined into mere automatons, and are shrewd enough to know that a scheme which jells them, feeds them on bread and water, and robs them of their playtime is no good to them."

SAYINGS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The following sayings of Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Democratic party, are taken from Charles T. Spradling's great book "Liberty and the Great Libertarians." From them you can see how rotten and degenerate has become the American Democratic party in the years that have passed since the great Libertarian lived and taught. Here follow the sayings:—

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

"That government is best which governs least."

"I sincerely believe that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies; and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale."

"I am convinced that those societies (as the Indians) which live without government, enjoy in their general mass an infinitely greater degree of happiness than those who live under the European governments. Among the former, public opinion is in the place of law, and restrains morals as powerfully as laws ever did anywhere. Among the latter, under the pretence of governing, they have divided their nations into two classes, wolves and sheep."

"Man is the only animal which devours his own kind; for I can apply no milder term to the general prey of the rich on the poor."

"The earth belongs by right of use to the living; the dead have neither powers nor rights over it. No society can make a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law."

"In every country and in every age the priest (and preacher) has been hostile to liberty; he is always in allegiance with the despot, abetting his abuses in return for protection for his own."

"It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself."

"Fix Reason firmly in her seat, and call to her tribunal every fact, every opinion. Question with boldness even the existence of a God."

A LETTER FROM LARKIN.

Liberty Hall,
Beresford Place,
Dublin,
March 19, 1914.

Mr. George Waite,
Cor. Sec. I.W.W., Sydney.

Dear Comrade,—

Yours of the 29th January duly to hand, and I heartily reciprocate the wishes expressed therein. We indeed have had a very severe struggle, and at one time were hopeful of emerging from it successfully, but for want of true solidarity on the one hand, and because of treachery on the other, we were not so successful as we hoped we would be. The British trade unionists, who at an early stage of the struggle, came to our assistance, failed us at the most crucial point of the struggle and left us practically resourceless. This applies not to the rank and file, but to the leaders in the British trade union movement, who completely sold us; they, having the machinery which brought the funds together, ceased to give us the financial support necessary. Yes, necessary, because at the time negotiations for a settlement were in progress. The want of solidarity made it possible for them to act as they did. Were the workers of Great Britain and Ireland as solidly united as they ought to be, and as we hope they will be, the leaders will not dare to act as they did. Everything that conduces to solidarity must be encouraged, because in it alone is the future hope of the world, and it is gratifying to find our fellow workers in distant Australia are imbued with the same ideas as ourselves, an augury of the high hope in the future that the workers of each country will become solidly united, and universal solidarity will be assured.

Yours fraternally,

JAMES LARKIN,
Sec. Transport Workers.

PREPARED FOR SHIPWRECK.

"Are there enough lifeboats for all the passengers?"

"No."

"Are there life preservers for everybody?"

"No."

"Well, hasn't anything been done in preparation for shipwreck?"

"Well, the band has learned to play 'Nearer, My God, to Thee' in the dark."

—The Masses.

N.S.W. State Brick works.

The Men's Grievances.

"One of the Strikers," writing to the "Sun," gives the following facts relating to State employment under a Labor administration:—

"A deputation waited upon the Minister for Works (Mr. Griffith) just before the last elections in regard to certain grievances. The Minister paid a visit to the works, and made promises of concessions. These arrangements have been carried out in part only. One promise was that an employee who had lost an eye through the lime would be compensated to some extent by having all the doctor's expenses paid, and the cost of a glass eye paid by the department. This has not been done."

The Minister makes a great boast that all Government employees are eligible for one week's holiday at the expiration of twelve months' service. This boast is in most cases so much empty talk, as very few men employed by the State brick works have received their holidays. Matters came to a head about a fortnight ago, when two of the men were dismissed. One, a fireman, asked for time and a half for working a 12 hours' shift. The other man asked the manager for an extra shilling a day for feeding a ball-mill, or lime-crusher, on account of the dusty nature of the work. As the lime was fresh from the kiln, and in most cases unslacked, the feeder was often severely burnt. The under-manager (Mr. Allen) granted this increase, pending the construction of an elevator to abate the dust nuisance. However, on the following day the foreman informed this employee that the decision of the management to grant the extra shilling per day had been reconsidered, and the increase stopped. Upon inquiring the reason of this move, the employee was ignominiously fired.

As these two men had plainly been victimised, the other employees asked for their reinstatement. This was refused, and the men would not return to work until they were reinstated. A deputation from the United Labourers' Union waited upon the Acting Minister for Works in regard to the trouble. Mr. Flowers informed the deputation that unless the men returned to work he would make no move at all, but if they did so he would appoint Mr. Percy Allan (the Minister's secretary) as an adjudicator to hold an inquiry, and if he found that the two men had been victimised he would see that they had justice done to them. This course the men decided to take, and accordingly presented themselves for work on the Saturday morning. The management refused to let them start, and paid them all off, and told them that they would have to make fresh application for work on the Monday. Under no consideration whatever would the two men who had been sacked be allowed to start. When he (Mr. Allan) did start the works again he would put on only those men whom he wanted to.

The union then deputationised Mr. Holman, who sent them to Mr. Holme, the Industrial Registrar, who took down the statements of the men, and said he would forward them on to the Cabinet, but nothing has been heard from this source.

Meanwhile the union had declared all bricks from the yard "black," which decision was refused endorsement by that conservative and timid body of men, the Labor Council. This body, by the way, never amounted to much more than a joke at any time in the opinion of most militant unionists.

The L.C., however, had a deputation to Mr. Griffith, who said much which amounted to very little. He refused to recognise the men as strikers, and said that the workers were all sacked, but could apply for work when the works opened again; but although they would not be victimised they would not receive preference of employment over anyone else who applied for work. He stated that the works were closed for repairs, but would be opened in about three weeks' time.

The repairs in question consist of the erection of a small elevator, which could easily be erected while the presses, &c., were working. The only stoppage would be for a couple of hours in connecting the shafting. The machinery wants no overhauling. This closing down for repairs business is so much bunkum, the object being to starve the men (most of whom are married), and force them to look elsewhere for work. However, the

men are solid, and will starve before they give in. They ask for an inquiry—an impartial one—into their case, and will stop as they are till they get it.

The above fairly illustrates how efficient governments are in handling slaves. It also explains why many far-seeing capitalists in America and Europe are in favour of turning the management of their businesses over to the Government. They know that in a Government they have an excellent executive committee, and if they could be sure of receiving interest on the money lent to their committee regularly they would be better off under the servile state than they are now.

It would probably be a waste of time for Socialists to fight Government ownership, just as it would be to fight the Trusts; for trustification and government ownership are steps forward or stages in industrial and social evolution and to fight them would be futile. But, on the other hand, it would be an equal waste of time to clamour for what is sure to be defective and unsatisfactory. We are already in the "Servile State" as the fights for free speech and the troubles of employees in government industries amply demonstrate. In the servile state the class struggle will be accentuated and the workers will be even worse slaves under nationalisation and government ownership than they are now under private enterprise.

What we have to do is to point these things out and teach the class struggle. Economic power is the source and foundation of all power and only when the workers are united thoroughly on the industrial field will freedom be in sight. The workers must keep Industrial and Political Self-government steadily in view, leaving the servile state, nationalisation of industries, and government ownership proposals to be advocated by the cunning and unthinking.

THE "BANDIT" ARMIES.

That the so-called "bandits" of Mexico are actually bandits is denied by Mr. J. K. Turner, an American journalist, the author of "Barbarous Mexico," who at the end of last year was gaoled at the capital city on suspicion of being a spy. Mr. Turner has seen these men in the making and the breaking. He has seen them at the beginning in their homes, later on in action, and at the end hanging by the neck from telegraph poles. No, not bandits, he says, but patriots.

The bandits of Mexico, says Mr. Turner, are fighting for liberty—not for some chimerical or ideal liberty, that is of the mind and far away, but for a concrete, tangible thing that means to them not only the broader liberties of the mind but the more pressing needs of the body. They are fighting for land to stand upon. They are all from the rural districts. The centres of the revolt are all found where a few men have all the land, and where the many have none—where those who have no land must work for those who have.

"These rural bandits," writes Mr. Turner in "Collier's," "once belonged to one or both of two classes—illegally dispossessed small farmers, and liberated slaves. Lincoln never freed any slaves whose lot approached in misery the lot of these Mexicans who were liberated by the revolution of 1910, and are retaining their liberty only by retaining possession of their guns."

"Their leaders are not carpet-baggers. The Zapata family were among the victims of a wholesale dispossession of Morelos lands by a rich friend of Porfirio Diaz. Salazar and Orozco are from the ranges of the north—rough men of the people. Almazan, a youth, went from the revolution of 1910 to an American university, but when the promises of that settlement were repudiated he returned to lead the men of Guerrero. Cheche Campos, an idealist, had valuable lands of his own at Durango. He gave up all to become a 'bandit.'"

"I am not willing to stand guarantor for the eternal impeccability of any of these men. Individuals are uncertain."

I am sure as to the mass. Liberty to the rural Mexican means a small piece of land upon which he may live, from which he cannot be dragged by force to serve another man; in thousands of cases a certain piece of land, once owned but taken away by force or fraud to be incorporated in one of those gigantic haciendas typical of agricultural Mexico. The Mexican people are fighting their way back to the land. . . . The real bandits are those the Ambassadors recommend as the legal rulers of the country."

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend.

Mexico.

And Why Capitalist Wars are Fought. (By Dominicus).

I do believe whatever trash
Will keep the people in blindness,
That we the Mexicans can thrash.
Right into brotherly kindness.
That bombshell, grape and powder an
ball
Are goodwill's strongest magnets;
And peace to make it stick at all
Should we draw in with bagnets.

These words, written by the American Lowell, admirably express the arrogance and brutality of the capitalist-class in all countries. Once again we have red war, and this time it is the greatest of all capitalist nations, the one in which the capitalist system, with its giant trusts and combines, is most highly developed, the one in which automatic machinery is most extensively in use, which is at war.

What is it about, and what will come of it? These questions suggest themselves to the working-class mind. The truth is that the war has been prompted by the same sordid motives that have prompted all capitalist wars. The plains of Mexico ran red with blood spilled by the rival factions of Huerta and Carranza, but plutocratic America stirred not a finger. Blood was cheap. But suddenly the great oil wells of Tampico in which the Standard Oil Trust is directly interested, were set ablaze by some of the warring Mexicans, and America rushed to war. Blood is thicker than water, but thinner than oil.

Years ago Mexico had a "strong" government, and according to capitalist ideals, there was peace in the land. Porfirio Diaz ruled with an iron hand and was backed by American military power. The American papers spoke laudingly of the "strong" government. In fact, it was as "strong" as the sanitary service of Broken Hill. On one occasion the workers in the great Riv Blanco cotton mill went on strike and the soldiers of Diaz shot them down, chased them to the mills and continued shooting them for days. The bodies of the dead were placed on flat trucks, carried to the harbour of Vera Cruz and dumped into the sea to feed the sharks. Yes, it was a "strong" government.

Under Diaz chattel slavery under the name of "peonage" prevailed in Mexico and American capitalists owned some of the largest estates on which peonage prevailed. Let the reader get John Kenneth Turner's "Barbarous Mexico" and read the story. At last, the Mexican people revolted against Diaz and the American capitalists and under Madero's leadership the revolution raged. Diaz in despair turned from his American backers and thereafter his fall was speedy. The triumphant Madero had, however, made certain promises to American capitalists which he could not fulfil, and an American-made revolution led by Huerta was started against him. Huerta triumphed and Madero was captured and brutally murdered. But Huerta allied himself with the powerful rivals of Standard Oil—a great English syndicate under one Pearson which has vast interests in the oil fields of Mexico. It was necessary for American capitalism to promote another revolution and Villa and Carranza were the instruments. The revolution might have continued indefinitely—but the oil wells of Tampico were set on fire.

Now let us examine the motives which have prompted the long series of wars of the past sixteen years. The mugs are always ready to fight for some silly notion of honour, glory or a flag outraged, but the master knows his business, and is always after something substantial. The church, the school, the press all help to fool the working-class, but the ruling-class always have definite material objects in view.

In 1898 the United States was at war with Spain. An American warship had been blown up mysteriously in the harbour of Havana, Cuba. American militia ran amok in San Francisco and shot down at sight all Southern Europeans whose complexions made them resemble Spaniards, Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines were annexed, but behind the whole business stood the gigantic American Sugar Trust, eager to grasp the rich sugar fields of Cuba.

The following year saw England invading the South African Republics, and the economic motive (the desire to seize the goldfields) is too well known now to

need comment. In 1904 Russia and Japan started the most awful war of the world's history. We in Australia were led to believe by capitalist rags like the "Bulletin," that it was a racial war, but what were the facts. Russian capitalism had seized Manchuria and a syndicate, under a scoundrel named Besobrazoff, was formed to exploit the timber resources of Northern Corea. The Czar himself and many Grand Dukes were shareholders in that syndicate. Trouble arose with the Japanese capitalists who regarded Korea as their domain. War was not desired by the Russian Government and General Kuropatkin—the Russian Commander—himself is authority for the statement that orders had actually been given for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Manchuria; but the timber syndicate demanded "protection," and the whole of the military forces of Russia were used to back it up, and war began.

A few years later came the sanguinary campaign of Italy in Tripoli. Italian industrialism has been developing rapidly of late years and Italy needed markets. A previous effort had established Italian rule in portion of Somaliland, but an expedition against Abyssinia had ended in awful disaster at Adowa, owing to the fact that international capitalism had well supplied the negroes with modern rifles. Tripoli lies close to the Italian shores and was about the only place that the capitalists of other nations had not snapped up. The Bank of Rome (which is in no small measure the Church of Rome) became the pioneer of capitalist conquest. A strong hold on Tripolitan trade was established and then became a pretext for "direct action." Tripoli was invaded and some thousands of Italian William Mugs watered the desert soil with their blood.

Then came the Balkan campaign with its awful massacres and outrages. Certain good and holy men were prompt in declaring that this was a war of Christian against Turk, but it was a remarkable thing that from the very first the Christian State of Roumania took up the position of practically allying itself with the Turk and demanding certain territory in the north of Bulgaria before Bulgaria might plunder the Turk. When the Roumanian troops marched as they eventually did, it was against Bulgaria and not Turkey. The facts appeared complicated by the number of small States (six in all) involved, but they were simple. Capitalism had been developing rapidly in all the Balkan States. Turkey had got rid of her despotic Sultan and purchased obsolete German warships. Bulgaria had a good State-school system, and all the other States were building railways and making rifles and machine guns. In the midst of the peninsula stood Serbia, landlocked, and urgently needing a port to develop her export trade (chiefly in pork); beside her stood Bulgaria eager to secure a port outside of the landlocked Black Sea. Greece desired the thriving port of Salonika on the Egean Sea. So did Bulgaria. The active intervention of foreign powers (chiefly Austria) prevented Serbia from seizing a port on the Adriatic Sea, and Greece, Serbia and Montenegro united (when the business of smashing the Turk was over) to drive the Bulgarian from Salonika. The end we all know. The Turk won back some of his lost territory and Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria (Christian Bulgaria) was occupied by the Christian States, while Constantinople remained as of yore, in the hands of the Moslem.

Such is the story of capitalist butchery of the past sixteen years. For how much longer will the workers be led like lambs to the slaughter in the battalions of plundering capitalism. Surely we in Australia have reason to thank the Labor party which has sold us to international armament trusts and forged a weapon in the conscript army for the masters' use.

WELLINGTON (N.Z.) MAYORAL ELECTIONS.

Message from N.S.W. Premier.

Frank L. Edwards, private secretary to W. A. Holman, writing to H. E. Holland, on behalf of Mrs. Holman, says:—

"Mrs. Holman wishes you success in your municipal campaign, as does the Premier, too. She asks that you will let her know the result."

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

Brisbane Free Speech Fight.

A direct challenge has been issued to Mr. J. G. Appel (Home Secretary), by the committee appointed at the recent meeting in Market Square to deal with the matter of obtaining the right of free speech for street speakers.

The committee was asked to lay before the proper authorities the resolutions passed at the Market-square, and this was done by the acting-secretary, Mr. E. Axelsson, in letters dated April 6 to the Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary.

Some two weeks elapsed before Mr. Appel was good enough to reply, and then a bare acknowledgment (dated April 18) was received, as follows:—

"Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that your letter of the 6th inst., submitting copies of certain resolutions passed at a public meeting in Brisbane, is receiving attention. Yours obediently,

WILLIAM GALL,

Under-Secretary, Home Department."

No further intimation has yet been received by the committee from Mr. Appel, though he made a statement to the press last week that he would adhere to his previous resolution, and allow no permits for street speaking in Brisbane on Saturday night.

The committee, therefore, feels called upon to protest strongly against such discourteous treatment from Mr. Appel, and to point out that such action is hardly likely to improve the situation. A similar reply was received from the Chief Secretary, but this, it may be pointed out, was dated more than a week earlier.

The committee at the same time wrote to the Federal Labor leader (Mr. Andrew Fisher), who, on April 11, acknowledged receipt of the letter, and promised to bring the matter before his party. A similar intimation was received from Mr. D. Watkins (secretary to the Australian Labor Party).

As a result of the failure of pacific methods, the committee has now decided to fling down the gauntlet to Mr. Appel and force matters to an issue.

The following resolutions were therefore passed at the last meeting of the committee, and copies of them will be sent to all metropolitan trades unions:—

"That this committee is of the opinion that the only course now open to again obtain the right of free speech is by demonstrating in a practical manner, and speaking at a monster demonstration to be held without permit in Market-square on Sunday evening, May 31."

"That all metropolitan trades unions be requested to forward names of members who are prepared to take part in the demonstration, and further that they be asked for financial and moral support."

Providing that the unions endorse these resolutions, as they have been asked to do, by May 23, it may be expected that the whole question will be decided by the end of next month, and the British right to free speech will either be recognised in Brisbane, or petty police tyranny will reign triumphant.

The Socialist I.W.W.

At the last meeting of the Socialist I.W.W. of Sydney, the Secretary was instructed to forward the following resolution to the Labour Council:

"That the attitude of the Holman Government in recent and present industrial disputes merit the severest condemnation of all Labor bodies, and that the dictatorial pronouncements of Ministers, and unsatisfactory labor conditions and victimization prevailing in the Botany Brick works and other State enterprises, together with their evasive policy of procrastination and callous disregard of the rights of the rural workers, clerks, and other sweated workers, to a living wage, show the urgent necessity of reorganising the forces of Labor on closer Socialist industrial lines, and displace the present Ministerial junta, who, in every struggle, favor the employing class interest to the disadvantage of the unionists."

Dealing with the brutal sentence passed upon H. E. Holland, the Secretary was instructed to forward the Club's protest against the harsh sentence imposed upon H. E. Holland for a seditious speech during the late strike in New Zealand, and to draw the attention of Mr. Massey, the Premier, to the fact that the British Government, under similar circumstances, shortly after the conviction of prominent Irish and English strikers made a remission of sentence, recognising the injustice of straining the law against Socialists, whilst being tolerant to the Ulster leaders. The I.W.W. hoped, therefore, that the New Zealand Government would follow the English precedent now the strike is over and annul Holland's sentence.

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THE WEEK IN SYDNEY.

17-14.—The wharf laborers' new award is out. The daily press bewails the fact that they are to get 1/9 per hour, minimum rates, and predicts an early bankruptcy for the Commonwealth. Why worry? Even if Australia went broke, the wharf laborers would still be here; the wharf laborers and farm laborers would still be here, and we could make a fresh start.

18-14.—Some enterprising farmers in New Zealand have started ploughing in the night time, and correspondents of the Sydney press think we shall soon see farmers throughout Australasia work day and night. Possibly the squatters will have to consult those who have to do the work.

19-14.—"When the brothers, Mr. Sam Hordern and Mr. Anthony Hordern met immediately after First Principle so brilliantly landed the Doncaster, Sam's remark was brief and pointed: "You are a lucky dog..." etc. (Quotation from snob press.) These people know what they are, but it is seldom they call themselves by their real names publicly.

The lift-boys who get £1 a week have to pay a penny in stamp duty to get it. That is one way of striking a blow at the capitalist system.

20-14.—The cables tell us that Caesar, the late King Edward's dog of dogs, is dead. Presumably the grief-stricken "Herald's" message to the people has been: "The King's dog is dead; long live the King's dog!"

21-14.—Dr. Wilson, the Yankee, proposes to blow a few thousand of his countrymen into another and better world by gunpowder. Haywood is threatening to call all the workers out on general strike to foil the capitalist schemes. If the workers knew how to act, they could rule the world.

22-14.—English emigrant farm laborers brought here to swell the labor market cannot obtain work, and are asking for leave to work their passage back.

23-14.—At the Congregational Union, a minister, the Rev. W. Cunliffe Jones, moved that anyone who asked to be married by the registrar should be able to do so without stating that he had conscientious objections to be married by a minister. In that case, the Rev. said, decent people would still be married by a minister, and other persons would go to the registrar. Selah!

H.C.

GENERAL VILLA'S ULTIMATUM TO PRESIDENT WILSON.

The Appeal has come into possession of confidential messages between Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, and General Pancho Villa, commander in chief of the Mexican constitutional forces. Here they are:—

General Pancho Villa, Juarez, Mexico. In the name of humanity I call on you to immediately release Luis Terrazas, son of General Luis Terrazas, the wealthy Mexican land owner, who I understand is being held by you illegally.

WOODROW WILSON.

President Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D.C.:—

I shall comply with your request, provided you and your administration will show the same regard for humanity toward one of your own citizens, a woman past eighty years, who is being illegally deprived of her liberty, by General Chase, commander in chief of the Colorado division of the Rockefeller forces. I refer to Mother Jones who is now held incommunicado in Trinidad, Colo. I may take the liberty to remind you that about two years ago Mother Jones made an organising trip for the Western Federation of Miners through Mexico, under the full protection of President Madero, whom she visited at Mexico City. Will you do as much for Mother Jones?

PANCHO VILLA.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.

General Secretary: J. W. ROCHE.

Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.

Administration Council meets on Saturday, May 16. Branches are urged to send delegates.

J. W. ROCHE,

General Secretary.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Sydney May Day Demonstration.

The Celebration of May Day at the Concordia Hall, Sydney, on Friday, May 1, was a splendid success. The large hall was well filled by Socialists full of enthusiasm for the cause and happy in the knowledge that Socialism is spreading in all countries. Songs and musical items, interspersed with addresses and tableaux made the time pass pleasantly until 10 p.m., after which dancing was indulged in until after midnight.

Comrades Blanc and Roche delivered addresses appropriate to the occasion, and resolutions were adopted protesting against the savage sentence imposed on Harry Holland by the authorities in New Zealand, and the warmongering machinations of the American government against Mexico.

The immense success of the celebration was enough to excite some thinking. Here was a hall capable of holding nearly a thousand people comfortably filled by enthusiastic Socialists, and yet, alas, very few belong to the Socialist Party or support a Socialist paper. The capitalist reporters came and took notes of the fine turnout, but no notes were published. Why? Because the owners of the daily papers were alarmed at the apparent strength of the Socialist Party in Sydney, and they think it safest to hide that strength from the workers. They wouldn't dare to do this if those who come once a year to celebrate a nodding acquaintance with the movement did their duty during the rest of the year. If they did their duty to this paper and the movement during the next year they would get into the Party and help to compel respect and recognition by the strength of their moral and financial support.

Comrade, it is up to you to do your duty. It is up to you to no longer leave the burden of advocating your principles to the few.

Get into the Party and support your press. Let us see if we cannot do things before next May Day, so that for the next celebration we shall require the largest hall in Sydney to hold the attending Socialists.

You have shown your numbers, let the foe see and feel your strength.

On Sunday, May 3, a grand demonstration was held in Sydney Domain. Speakers were present from the A.S.P., S.L.P., I. S. Club, and the Socialist I.W.W. Resolutions affirming the solidarity of the workers, protesting against the brutal sentence passed upon Harry Holland on the absurd charge of sedition, were carried with acclamation. Speakers were all in good form and the audience seemed well satisfied. A collection was taken up the proceeds of which will be devoted to the press funds of the Socialist Parties.

Meetings of a successful character were held on Sunday evening, when a host of speakers supplied the oratory.

The branch meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, at Queen's Hall. Kindly make a point of being present for there is important business on the agenda.

DOMAIN LECTURES.

Sunday, May 10, Com. A. Rutherford:—"Francisco Ferrer, the Teacher, vs. Archbishop Kelly, the Preacher."

Sunday, May 17, Com. D. Healy:—"The War in Mexico, and Wars of Modern times."

These lectures will be worth hearing. We invite questions and criticism.

LUKE JONES,

Secretary.

NEWTOWN.

The above branch held very successful meetings at Annandale on Friday night, April 24, and at Newtown Bridge on Sat. and Sunday nights, Ap. 25 and 26. Comrades Kotton and Jackson were the speakers at Friday's meeting; Coms. Jackson, Slade, and Healy at Saturday's meeting; and Coms. Jackson and Kiburn did some sledgehammer work on Sunday night.

On Sat. May 2, McCormick, Slade, and Foran addressed a large audience at the Bidge and received a good hearing.

Sunday night, Page, Jackson, and Kiburn delivered addresses to a large and attentive audience. We are glad to have Kiburn back on the stump. The rest has done him good and he is now better than ever.

W. J. PAGE, Secretary.

Send 8d. in stamps for a bundle of "The International Socialist" for distribution amongst your friends.

BRISBANE.

The Free Speech Committee met on Saturday evening. A few of the union representatives were absent owing to the meeting clashing with union appointments. No notification from Appel had been received, but we took it that he stood by his decision given out to the press a few days ago.

The committee decided that the only course left open to us was to call upon the unions to hold a great demonstration on Sunday night, May 31st, without a permit.

The secretary, Ted Axelsson, of the Baker's, has written the press and notified all the unions. Developments promise to be interesting.

On Thursday morning next I am expected to be present at the South Brisbane Police Court to answer a charge of showing indecent literature in the window. The matter in question is a piece of poetry (?) written by one "Ishmael." Some few weeks ago the D's entered our premises and took the cutting out of the window. Last Friday the summons was presented to me. Solicitor Crawford has been engaged to defend the case. This course was decided upon, because it was felt that without professional aid our case was hopeless, notwithstanding the fact that we were in the right. Our experiences in the past have proved that the magistrates take advantage of an un-defended defendant. If we win this case it may give the police a pause. It is the first time we have engaged a lawyer and the experiment will be closely watched.—Yours for success.

Instead of Hominy.

GORDON BROWN.

Org. Sec. Bris Branch.

April 28.

AUSTRALIAN DOGS.

"Australian Barkers and Bites" is the title of an entertaining and instructive book by Robert Kaleski on the Australian dog (N.S.W. Bookstall Co., Ltd., 1/-). A popular account is given of the kelpie, cattle-dog, bar, greyhound, kangaroo-dog and the beagle; the origins of the breeds are traced, their peculiarities and weaknesses discussed, and some advice on the rearing of pups is given. There is a chapter on "The Noble Dingo," which has had an important part in the cross-breeding necessary to obtain the perfect cattle-dog, and the author asks us to believe that he is not the despicable beast we proclaim him. The book is brightly written, and besides chapters on "Dog Fighters," "Cat Fights" and "Dog Swapping," the reading is enlivened throughout by appropriate anecdotes.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

C. Schwartz 2s., M.W. Davies, 1s., C. Lee 1s., W.A. Smith 1s., H.C. Weber 4s., W. Petersen 1s., J. Lawrence 2s., A. Zeegan 1s., F. Sutherland 1s., J. Torrens 1s.

Subscription Cards are now ready for comrades who are out after thinkers. Send cash in for a few and go on the warpath. You will find them handier than letters, and they do the paper some good. Get your friends on our list, and we will start them thinking.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. Searle, Eungai Creek. Yours held over until Sir Fergus arrives, when it will be discharged at him and his fellow crooks.

Sydney Partridge, Adelaide. Thanks. Hope to use shortly.

"Jayem," Melbourne. Received. Will write shortly.

"Diogenes," Balmain. Sorry to hear of indisposition. Have sent papers as requested.

M. Gormeston, Tas. Will forward some to help you.

Chas. Bushell, Townsville. Watch for Comrade Jackson's meetings and you will meet all the comrades there.

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O. BLANC, Secretary.

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